

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRETOR 02371 111806Z

64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 CCO-00

OTPE-00 EB-11 FCC-03 OC-06 COME-00 SS-15 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-12 H-02 RSR-01 /133 W

----- 054183

R 111518Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8271

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 2371

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, SF

SUBJ: NASA TRACKING STATION

REF: PRETORIA 2357

1. PRETORIA-JOHANNESBURG JULY 11 AFTERNOON PAPERS CARRIED ITEMS ON NASA STATION PHASEOUT BUT DID NOT APPEAR DRAW ON NASA ANNOUNCEMENT AS SUCH.

2. PRETORIA NEWS, CITING CSIR SOURCES, SAID SA POST OFFICE MIGHT TAKE OVER STATION AS SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER AFTER CLOSURE IN 1975. FYI: HEWITT COMMENTED TO EMBOFF YESTERDAY THAT, IN ORDER MOVE AHEAD ON TENDER PLANS, POST OFFICE HAS BEEN SEEKING CLEARANCE FROM NASA TO LOCATE ITS PLANNED COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE EARTH STATION IN HARTHEESHOEK SITE AREA. ISSUE OF POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE WITH DEEP SPACE FACILITY WOULD APPEAR TO FALL AWAY, HEWITT SAID, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THAT EARTH STATION OPERATION WAS THREE YEARS AWAY. PRESS REPORT MAY BE VARIATION ON THIS. END FYI.

3. PRETORIA NEWS ALSO SPECULATED THAT DECISION CAME AS SHOCK TO CSIR. PROOF OF UNEXPECTEDNESS FOUND, PN SAID, IN FACT THAT ONLY YESTERDAY BIDS WERE REQUESTED FOR BUILDING OF SCHOOL, LIBRARY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRETOR 02371 111806Z

DINING ROOM FOR CSIR AT STATION. PAPER ADDED IT NOT CERTAIN WHETHER

BID REQUESTS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN. FYI. COMMENT: HAVE NOT CHECKED BUT THESE MAY HAVE BEEN RELATED TO PROGRAM OF IMPROVING FACILITIES FOR AFRICANS AT STATION. END FYI COMMENT.

4. JOHANNESBURG STAR STORY MENTIONED SENATOR MOSS AS SOURCE ANNOUNCEMENT WITH SAME QUOTATION AS RAND DAILY MAIL (REFTEL). ALSO QUOTED SENATOR KENNEDY AS GRATIFIED AT MOVE SINCE OPERATION OF STATION HAD BEEN SUBSIDIZING APARTHEID. HEWITT QUOTED ALONG SAME LINES AS REPORTED REFTEL. ARTICLE ALSO SPOKE OF DECADE OF FRUITFUL COOPERATION. SAID STATION HAD PLAYED CRUCIAL ROLE IN EARLY SUCCESS OF MISSIONS AS ONLY STATION IN CONTACT AT TIMES. ADDED THAT SKILLS GAINED BY SA EXPOSURE TO EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES.

5. DIE VADERLAND HEADLINED "MANY SEEK WORK" BUT NOTED IN ARTICLE THAT MANY OF WHITE AND AFRICAN STAFF WOULD HAVE UNTIL 1975 TO SEEK OTHER EMPLOYMENT. CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM NOTED. DECLINING USE OF STATION IN PAST SAID TO BE APPARENTLY DUE TO OPPOSITION TO SA RACIAL POLICY. SAID CSIR OFFICIALS NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT BUT IT UNDERSTOOD MOST OF STATION STAFF WOULD REMAIN EMPLOYED BY CSIR.
HURD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PRETOR02371
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730740/aaaabdjml.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 PRETORIA 2357
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <04-Feb-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NASA TRACKING STATION
TAGS: TSPA, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005